

Roman Empire
190/510:306

Instructor: Serena Connolly
Email: serena@rutgers.edu
Location: BT 123 D/C
Hours: MTh 10:55am-12:15pm
Office hours: M 2:00pm-3:00pm, in RAB D/C 005

DESCRIPTION

A survey of the history of the Roman Empire through the six centuries from its establishment by Augustus to the reign of Justinian, with a particular focus on the first three centuries AD. Attention to social, intellectual, and religious changes—as well as to the framework of historical events within which these changes took place—and to the processes by which the Roman Empire was replaced by the institutions of Byzantium and the Western Middle Ages.

No prior knowledge of the ancient languages is assumed: all sources have been translated into English. Some familiarity with Roman history/civilization will be an advantage.

Most class sessions will comprise lectures given by the instructor, but with plenty of time to ask (and answer) questions; frequent in-class group study sessions will allow for review of the historical narrative of the period and deeper examination of primary sources relating to class topics.

Active attendance—i.e. being present mentally as well as physically—at every class session is required and is part of your final grade. Using your phone to check messages or send a text or using your laptop/tablet for any purpose other than taking notes in class is distracting and disrespectful to everyone else in the room.

GRADING

You will be graded as follows:

Active attendance	20%
Study sessions	20%
Requires one study guide posting and one source guide posting	
Map quiz	5%

Midterm examination	20%
Final examination	35%

I do not grade on a curve. I do not negotiate grades. No make-up exams will be offered without a note to me directly from a Dean or academic adviser.

**FAILURE TO COMPLETE ANY POSTING, QUIZ OR EXAM WILL RESULT IN AUTOMATIC GRADE OF
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FOR THE ENTIRE COURSE**

You are responsible for making sure you

- a) attend and take quizzes and exams on the appropriate days
- b) post guides by the deadlines given to you

BOOKS

Required:

- Naphtali Lewis and Meyer Reinhold. *Roman Civilization: Selected Readings. Vol. 2: The Empire*. 3rd ed. New York: Columbia University Press, 1990.
ISBN-10: 0231071337 ISBN-13: 978-0231071338
- Robert Graves. *The Twelve Caesars*. London: Penguin, 2007. (Any edition of Graves' translation is fine.)
ISBN-10: 0140455167 ISBN-13: 978-0140455168

Copies of these have been ordered through the Rutgers Bookstore. You will also find new and used copies from online retailers.

Strongly recommended:

Either:

Allen Mason Ward, Fritz M. Heichelheim, and Cedric A. Yeo. *A History of the Roman People* (any edition is fine).

ISBN-10: 0205846793 ISBN-13: 978-0205846795

There are new and plenty of used copies available through online retailers.

Or:

Colin Wells, *The Roman Empire* (2nd edition).

ISBN-10: 0674777700 ISBN-13: 978-0674777705

plus

Averil Cameron, *The Later Roman Empire*.

ISBN-10: 0674511948 ISBN-13: 978-0674511941

There are new and plenty of used copies of both of these books available through online retailers.

Additional readings will be made available via Sakai.

CLASS TOPICS

				Topic	L&R readings
1	September	Th	3	Introduction to the Course	
2		*T*	8	Rise of Octavian	1-5, 95; Suetonius, <i>Julius Caesar and Augustus</i>
3		Th	10	The emperor Augustus – administration and foreign policy	
4		M	14	The emperor Augustus – self-presentation	
5		Th	17	Roman society	13-14, 48-50, 54, 74, 91-3, 161
6		M	21	Study session	
7		Th	24	The Julio-Claudians	6-7, 9, 12, 98, 162; Suetonius, <i>Tiberius</i>
8		M	28	Politics under the Julio-Claudians;	
9	October	Th	1	The Flavians, esp. Nero	37-8, 41, 47, 84i, 136-8, 140, 146, 150; Suetonius, <i>Nero, Vespasian and Domitian</i>
10		M	5	Wars of 69; the Roman military	
11		Th	8	Map quiz; study session	
12		M	12	Peace of the second century	10, 11, 15-16, 40, 42-3, 90
13		Th	15	Expansion and Romanization	
14		M	19	Social Change & the Second Sophistic	55, 61, 106
15		Th	22	Midterm exam	
16		M	26	Religion	84ii, 103-5, 107, 110, 112, 118, 163, 167-9
17		Th	29	The crisis of the third century	
18	November	M	2	Rome and the East (Persia)	119-124; Sapor inscription
19		Th	5	Diocletian and the Tetrarchy	
20		M	9	Study session	
21		Th	12	Constantine and the Christianization of Rome	108, 125, 170-6, 183-5
22		M	16	The Rise of the Church	128, 130, 132, 134, 177-182, 186-7, 189-90
23		Th	19	The fourth century Dominate	
24		M	23	Barbarian invasions and Roman society	
25		M	30	Internal discord of the early fifth century	191-4; additional sources on Sakai
26	December	Th	3	The collapse of the West: 476; the rise of the Byzantine Empire	
27		M	7	Study session	
28		Th	10	Justinian II – his legacy; Postscript	

